

# NEW YORK



# SCHOOL

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### THE OLD MAN GOES TO SCHOOL.

BY JOHN H. YATES.

I know I'm too old to learn, wife; my lessons and tasks are done;  
The dawn of life's evenin' glister in the light of life's  
settin' sun.  
To the grave by the side of my fathers they'll carry  
me soon away;  
But I wanted to see how the world had grown, so I  
habited to school to-day.

I couldn't a told 'twas a school-house, it towered up  
to the skies;  
I gazed on the noble structure till dimmer grew  
these old eyes.  
My thoughts went back to the log-house—the school-  
house of long ago.  
Where I studied and romped with the merry boys  
who slept where the daisies grow.

I was startled out of my dreamin' by the tones of its  
monstrous bell;  
On those cars that are growin' deaf the sweet notes  
rose and fell.  
I entered the massive door, and sat in the proffered  
chair—  
An old man, wrinkled and gray, in the midst of the  
young and the fair.

Like a garden of bloomin' roses, the school-room  
appeared to me—  
The children were all so tidy, their faces so full of  
glow;  
They stared at me when I entered, then broke o'er  
the whisperin' rule,  
And said, with a smile, to each other, "The old  
man's comin' to school."

When the country here was new, wife—when I was a  
scholar-lad,  
Our readin' and writin' and spellin' were 'bout all  
the studies we had.  
We cleared up the fern through the summer, then  
traveled through woods and snow  
To the log-house in the openin'—the school-house  
of years ago.

Now boys go to school in a palace, and study hard  
Latin and Greek;  
They are taught to write scholarly essays; they are  
drilled on the state to speak;  
They go into the district hopper, but come out of  
the college sport;  
And this is the way the schools of our land are  
gradin' our great men out.

Let 'em grind! let 'em grind, dear wife! the world  
needs the good and the true;  
Let the children out of the old house and trot 'em  
into the new.  
I'll cheerfully pay my taxes, and say to this age of  
mine,  
All aboard! all aboard! go ahead! if you leave the old  
man behind!

Our system of common schools is the nation's glory  
and crown;  
May the arm be palsied, ever, that is lifted to tear it  
down.  
If bigots cannot endure the light of our glowin'  
Lanterns,  
Let them go to Oppression's shore, where Liberty  
blooms and dies.

I'm glad I've been to-day to the new house, large  
and grand;  
With pride I think of my toils in this Liberty lovin'  
land;  
I've seen a palace arise where the old log school-  
house stood,  
And gardens of beauty bloom where the shadows  
fell in the wood.

To the grave by the side of my fathers they'll carry  
me soon away,  
Then I'll go to a higher school than the one I've  
seen to-day;  
Where the Master of masters teacheth—where the  
scholars never grow old—  
From glory to glory I'll climb to the beautiful col-  
lege of gold.

### Educational Notes.

The four weeks' winter vacation at Dartmouth College has begun.

The *Cleveland Herald* argues in favor of placing women on school boards.

The Auburn Theological Seminary is to have a new building costing \$100,000.

The Rev. W. T. G. Shedd has been elected Professor of Systematic Theology in Union Seminary.

HELEN W. WHESTER, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, has accepted a professorship at Vassar College.

L. S. HASTINGS, resigns his position as tutor of mathematics at Dartmouth College, at the end of the present term.

The cost of educating a cadet at West Point is said to be \$8,000, or \$2,000 for each of the four years of the course.

An Italian musical education, together with the advantage of a *chaperone*, costs a young lady \$5,000 a year on an average.

MARYLAND spends \$40,000 a year on colleges and academies, from which women are excluded, and only \$5,000 for the exclusive education of young women.

SOME Dartmouth students so tampered with the gas in the recitation rooms, recently, that it went out at most unseasonable hours, and now two of them are separated from the institution.

PROFESSOR T. H. SAPPORD, of the Dearborn University, Chicago, has become associated with the office of explorations and surveys west of the one hundredth meridian, Lieutenant George M. Wheeler in charge.

In the Evening Schools of Chicago, this winter, there has been a good average attendance. The total expense has been \$6,992.08, and the cost per pupil for tuition, on total enrollment, was \$2.63, while the cost per pupil, on average attendance, was \$8.51.

THE Teachers' Association in Worcester, Mass., lately spent an afternoon in listening to an essay, "Are the pupils of our public schools overworked?" and a discussion thereon. The opinion seemed very decided that late hours, foolish dressing, bad ventilation, etc., had more to do with the poor health of pupils than hard study.

THE Regents of the State University of Illinois, with entire unanimity, are firm in their determination to hold President Twombly to his agreement, made last June, to resign within a year. The President claims that he has been treated unfairly, and his friends are making great efforts in his behalf.

A MEETING of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Comparative Zoology was held, Jan. 28, in Boston, when Alexander Agassiz was chosen to the charge of the Museum at Cambridge, to carry on the great work begun by his father. A committee was also appointed to arrange for the establishment of the Museum on a substantial basis.

In a recent address before the Washington County, Penn., Teachers' Institute, Prof. Ehrenfeld said that "we ought to feel that beyond and above the curriculum of studies we have minds to direct upward," and that he "would, if he were in a school and had a rough element—boys of indifferent habits, uncouth—let the curriculum go, on some occasions, in order to attend to these matters."

THE Yale College Seniors have chosen Harry Harger Ragan, of Turin, N. Y., for class orator, and George Darius Reid, of Suffolk, for class poet. The election was an unusually peaceful one. The class orator and poet are members of no senior society. Only one ballot was taken on each candidate, and their elections were made unanimous.

THE University of Cincinnati is prospering. At the meeting of the Board of Directors, held last week, it was resolved to employ, during the ensuing year, the following professors, with salaries not less than \$3,500 each: "Professor of Mathematics, Professor of Physics, Professor of Ancient Languages and Comparative Philology."

THE Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College has thirty students. Latin, Greek, French and German are taught, as well as "the branches of learning related to agriculture and the mechanic arts," for the promotion of which the institution (based on the Congressional land grant of 1869) was more especially established.

SCHOOL CONCERT.—The pupils of the Female Grammar School of the Second District, in Washington, D. C., gave a grand concert at Sexton Building, on I street, last week. Among the many gems of songs and recitations, the "Months," metrically arranged by Miss Emma C. Weightman from the prose of Henry Ward Beecher, and recited by twelve misses, were considered the best.

JOHN RUSKIN recently wrote to an Aberdeen Sunday-school teacher: "I should much like to send your class some message,

but have no time for anything I like. My own constant cry to Bible readers is a very simple one: 'Don't think that Nature (human or other) is corrupt; don't think that you yourself are elect out of it; and don't think to serve God by praying instead of obeying.'"

THE resignation of President Joseph Cummings, of the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., has caused universal regret among the students. During the 17 years of Dr. Cummings's presidency over half a million dollars have been added to the property of the University, including four new buildings, and its influence has been widely extended. No successor has yet been suggested.

THE cause of the resignation of President Cummings, of Wesleyan University, was a disagreement with the faculty respecting the management of the institution. The resignation was submitted to the trustees at a meeting in New York, last week, and they unanimously requested him to withdraw it; the students also have signed a petition to him to remain, but there is no probability that he will yield to these requests.

MISSOURIANS have subscribed nearly \$50,000 for the chair of applied chemistry in Washington and Lee University in Virginia; the Kentuckians \$25,000 for the chair of history and political economy in the same institution; the Louisianians \$27,000 for the chair of modern languages; the Texans \$37,000 for the chair of applied mathematics; the Virginians \$35,000 for their chair, and each of these States will complete its endowment to \$50,000. The University of Virginia now has an endowment of \$300,000, and an aggregate capital of more than \$500,000.

THE Bureau of Education at Washington has received a letter from Madrid, and also one from Paris, asking for information in regard to high schools in the United States, with a view to the establishment of the same in both the above-mentioned countries. During the past month there has been a constantly-increasing demand upon the Bureau of Education from foreign countries for circulars, information, etc., concerning the different grades of schools, their status, and the text-books used in the same.

THE discouraging fact comes out in the message of the Governor of Rhode Island, that although the town expenditures for school purposes in that State have increased in the last ten years \$305,569, the average attendance is less by nearly a thousand scholars now than in 1863. There was an absolute decrease in attendance from 1860 to 1870, though the population increased nearly 48,000. The governor attributes this decrease to the increase of private and evening schools, but the *Providence Journal* says that this is not a sufficient cause.

THE twenty-fifth annual register of the College of the City of New York is just published. The course of instruction at the college embraces five years of two terms each, and the five classes of 1873-4 aggregate about 700 pupils. The catalogue is an enlargement of last year's, making a handsome pamphlet of 111 pages. The college prints also this year a catalogue of its Historical Cabinet, and invites contributions to the several departments, viz., Indian and American stone-age relics, historical relics and curiosities of other lands. The collection is yet in its infancy, but contains many articles of exceeding interest.

PROF. BAMCOE, the champion of woman's rights in educational matters, spoke at the commencement of Westfield Naval School, in Massachusetts, last week. He attacked the present style of female dress, regarding it as a great hindrance to the fullest development of the feminine intellect, and claimed for girls equal privileges for the enjoyment of the established educational advantages with their brothers. The services were closed by the singing of the class ode, written by Miss Warner, and an appropriate prayer by Rev. A. D. Mayo, of Springfield. The school, at the close of the

term, numbered 115 scholars and nine teachers, and now enters upon the short, or four weeks', vacation.

THE old practice of teaching girls to sew in the public schools will probably be revived in Boston. For two or three months the experiment has been tried in the Winthrop school with great success. Two hours each week are devoted to this study. Each class receives separate instruction suited to its advancement, and consequently all grades of work are carried on, from hemming a pocket-handkerchief to cutting out and fitting a dress. In teaching cutting, the pattern is drawn upon the blackboard, and the several measurements are given, and each girl copies them into her drawing-book.

THE report of the President of the Clarke Institution, at Northampton, Mass., covering the year ending September 30, 1873, shows the expenses of the school to have been \$18,390, and the number of pupils fifty-eight, being an average of \$317 for board and tuition during the year. When the debt incurred in building, which is now about \$23,000, is paid off or considerably lessened, the rate of tuition will be reduced. The present number of pupils is sixty-four, which fills the school beyond its capacity, and the corporation have been considering the expediency of enlarging the buildings and dividing the school into a primary and a more advanced department.

THE trustees of the Bowdoin College at a recent meeting elected Prof. Charles H. Smith, late tutor in Yale College, professor of mathematics in place of Prof. Rockwood. Ex-President Hopkins, of Williams, was elected to fill, provisionally, the chair of mental and moral philosophy. The department of engineering is placed on a permanent basis, and an effort will be made to raise \$50,000 for its endowment. At a subsequent meeting of the board, the determination was expressed to further endow the college and hold it up to its present standard, and \$25,000 was pledged on the spot by members of the board. The prospects of the college were never more encouraging.

EVERY State of the Union has normal schools, except Texas and Nevada. Massachusetts has one normal school for every 208,193 of her population; Illinois ranks next, having one normal school for every 254,941; Ohio has one for 296,140; and New York has the greatest number of normal schools, yet only one for 398,433 of her population. The whole number of normal institutions in the United States is 114, of which fifty-one are State schools, sixteen city schools, twenty-seven connected with colleges and universities, and the remainder supported in various ways. There are 10,922 pupils in these schools, and 445 teachers. Nearly one-tenth of all the normal pupils in the country belong to the Female Normal Colleges of New York city.

At the weekly meeting of the Woman's Social Education Society of this city, held last week, a paper was read by Mrs. Rebecca Morse on "The Art of Giving." Mrs. Morse thought that people should be more circumspect in giving alms than they are, and that while it is proper to give at the first request to a person asking food or money without investigating the case—because a life may be lost by the delay thus entailed—yet it is a duty that all charitable persons owe to themselves and to society to inquire into the character of people who repeatedly apply to them for help. She also pleaded earnestly for compulsory education, urging that it is an effective panacea for poverty, vice and crime. After the reading of the paper the subject was discussed by the ladies present, nearly all of whom agreed with Mrs. Morse.

THE Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* thinks that one of the evils of secret societies in colleges is that resulting from the desire of each society to make the best case possible for itself with those they desire to initiate; "and so, among other things, the recital is had of the prizes the society has taken. It is desirable that the list should be a long and a brilliant one. Therefore, in order to make a great array of prizes, the graduate members of the society are called

upon to help; and in their zeal for the fraternity, and in their easy and somewhat demoralized good nature, they do help; and many a prize which passes to the credit of the society is bestowed upon compositions written not by the undergraduates, but by graduate members of a number of years' standing, by members engaged at the bar, in teaching, at the desk of the editor, and even in the pulpit."

PROFESSOR J. W. P. JENCKS, director of the Museum of Natural History in Rhode Island has sailed for Savannah. Thence he expects to penetrate the wilderness around Lake Okechobee, in Florida, a territory of one hundred and six square miles, which, so far as he can learn, no naturalist has yet explored. Since his connection with the museum, Professor Jencks has shown great zeal and skill in preparing and classifying specimens, so that now our college has the best arranged museum of its size in the country. Inasmuch as several leading naturalists have borne testimony to his carefulness and skill, we may confidently expect as a result of his present expedition a large and valuable addition to the cabinet. The professor is accompanied by Dr. Edward Palmer, of Harvard College, Mr. Edward Storer, of the Sophomore class of Brown University, and Mr. Fred. T. Jencks, son of Mr. Charles W. Jencks, of Providence.

THE commencement exercises of the Bennett Eclectic Medical College in Chicago were held last week. Sixteen young gentlemen composed the graduating class, and in a brief address by Prof. A. L. Clark, they were declared Doctors of Medicine and Masters of the Art of Surgery. After the conferring of degrees and a brief musical interlude, the valedictorian, J. P. Caldwell, appeared and delivered his address. The following-named graduates appear on the roster of the institution for its tenth annual session: J. P. Caldwell, Illinois; Floyd Glendenin, Illinois; C. S. Stoddard and George A. Love, Minnesota; William H. Babcock, S. G. Wright, W. H. Robbins, J. H. Terrell, and L. R. Williams, Illinois; Charles L. Gish and William H. Chappell, Wisconsin; George W. McKinney and J. A. Hiatt, Indiana; J. D. Hamilton, Kansas; E. M. Heffelfinger, Iowa; and Daniel McLean, Michigan.

A good story is told of Governor Chittenden, who was one of the early governors of Vermont. He was an extensive farmer, and had two sons. One was a boy of bright intellect, and the other dull. The father thought that nature had done enough for the youngest, and that he would make his way in the world without more than a common-school education, but that the elder would need all the aid of a liberal education to make up the natural deficiency, and he was accordingly sent to college, while his brother was kept on the farm. It happened one spring that among the fruit of the governor's herd was a very splendid calf. It would not suck nor drink, and no amount of effort on the part of the father, son or "hired man" could induce him to take his sustenance. After repeated efforts the good man's patience gave out, and he said to his son, "Freeman, what on earth shall we do with this stupid fool?" "I don't know, father," was the ready response, "unless we send him to college with Martin!"

THE semi-annual examination of the State Normal School, at Framingham, Mass., was held last week. The year has been a successful one. The session was principally devoted to the reading of essays, as follows: "Reading," by Miss Fanny W. May; "The Real and Ideal," by Miss Harriet P. Thatcher; "English language in the Common Schools," by Miss Lizzie A. Winship; "Housekeeping," by Miss Jeannette W. Williams. Miss Augusta Barber delivered the valedictory, after which Hon. Henry Chapin awarded the diplomas to the following-named graduates: Augusta Barber, Framingham; Jennie Bates, Grantville; M. Lizzie Brown, East Douglas; Helen F. Bullard, West Medway; Mary M. Fuller, Grantville; M. Kate Howard, Lunenburg; Fannie W. May, Boston; Harriet P. Thatcher, West Newton; Jeannette W. Williams, Newton Lower Falls; Lizzie A. Winship, West







## THE NEW YORK BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The New York Board of Education held its regular session last Wednesday. President Nelson in the chair. The absentees were Commissioners Hoe, Kelley, Lewis and Townsend.

## TRUSTEES' COMMUNICATIONS.

A request from the Ninth Ward to make a special appropriation for bills of Gillis and Geoghegan for repairs to the heating apparatus of G. S. No. 3, amounting to \$123.45, was referred to the Committee on Warming and Ventilation.

The First Ward presents the case of Miss Sarah C. Hubie, V. P. of P. S. No. 38, a teacher of long standing and without fault, yet who must be discharged under the rule of the Board because the new denominational school in the Ward has reduced the attendance in the public school below the necessary number.

The Twentieth Ward asks an additional teacher for G. D. of School No. 32.

The Twenty-second Ward nominates Evander Childs, Jr., for Principal of G. S. No. 9.

The Fourteenth Ward informs the Board that they have removed Miss Catharine F. McHugh, of M. D. of G. S. 21, for negligence and willful disobedience, and Miss Catharine Murphy, of the same school, for incompetency. Miss McHugh and Miss Murphy each appeal from this action of the Trustees to the Board.

The Twenty-third Ward nominate Miss Frances C. Turney for Principal of P. S. No. 2, and Miss Charlotte M. Stearns as Vice-Principal of P. S. No. 3 in their district.

The Seventeenth Ward names Mary C. Hepburn for Principal of the new Primary School in Third street, near the Bowery.

These communications were referred to the Committee on Teachers.

The Sixth Ward objects to a new stairway for P. S. No. 2, which, they say, has already five pairs of stairs.

The Eighteenth Ward calls attention to an apparently unjust inequality between the salaries of the janitors of G. S. No. 40 and G. S. No. 50.

The Thirteenth Ward asks a new Primary School to relieve Primary Department of G. S. No. 4.

The Nineteenth Ward ask authority to advertise for proposals for alterations to the galleries of schools 27 and 53.

The Seventeenth Ward asks that J. Weber's bills, amounting to \$121.87, be paid.

These communications were referred to the Committee on Buildings.

The Eighteenth Ward names Miss Maggie F. Dougherty for assistant in their evening school.

The Seventh Ward makes an earnest appeal for the payment of Charles W. Miller of his salary, notwithstanding his classes in German were unsuccessful and his appointment irregular. These communications were sent to the Committee on Evening Schools.

The Seventeenth Ward report that they have awarded the contract for removing the bodies interred in the ground now occupied by the school at 48 First street to James B. Smith, at \$4,930. Referred to the Finance Committee.

The Twenty-fourth Ward sends in bills for about \$2,300, contracted before the consolidation. Referred to the Committee on Buildings.

## MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

John Dunham, Engineer of the Board, reports that the files and registers of G. S. No. 47 require attention. Referred to the Committee on Warming and Ventilation.

Henry Kiddle, City Superintendent, sends in two reports. The first is in answer to a request to him to investigate whether, where more than one department is carried on in a building, one principal in it is not enough. His report presents both sides.

On the one hand, that "Experience has shown that a higher degree of efficiency, both in discipline and in instruction, is secured by placing distinct departments under separate heads for accurate supervision, especially if the management involves the application of special or peculiar rules, principles, or methods." On the other hand, he thinks where they are connected intimately, harmonious co-operation may best be secured under a single head.

He sees that schools have suffered for want of co-operation between the Grammar and Primary Departments, both in want of fitting the Primary teaching to the requirements of the Grammar School, and in the lack of space often given in buildings to the Primary which the Grammar department might spare. He does not, however, see much economy in such a change, except by the unjust means of imposing a higher grade of work on a lower grade of pay, and on the whole discourages any such change in the larger schools until after careful experiment in the small schools, which he rather recommends. This report was referred to the Committee on Course of Studies.

The Committee on By-Laws had this same subject under consideration, and reported against a proposed reduction of principals as vacancies occurred where there were several departments in a building, so as to leave but one principal in each building, and asked to be discharged from further consideration of the matter.

When this was presented, Mr. Patterson objected that its adoption would be contrary to their action on the Superintendent's report, and on Mr. Dowd's motion, it was laid on the table till the report of the Committee on Course of Studies should come in.

The other report of the Superintendent was on what schools could be advantageously abandoned. He reports that the following schools can be abandoned and their scholars transferred to other schools.

Primary School 38. Present average attendance, 132. Scholars to be transferred to P. D. G. S. 29, with seats for 591, and average attendance 316.

P. S. 2. Average attendance, 241. Scholars to be transferred to P. S. No. 8, with seats for 650, and an average attendance of 407, with P. D. No. 30 near.

P. S. 18. Pupils to be transferred to P. D. of G. S. 16.

P. S. 39 to be transferred to a better location in the Eleventh Ward.

G. S. No. 5 to be transferred to G. S. No. 21, leaving the Primary Departments of that School for a separate Primary.

P. S. No. 33 to be transferred to a place further north and east of the Third avenue, the building being unfit for school purposes and the Model Primary supplying in a measure its place. He thinks the adoption of these recommendations would save \$15,000, but recommends that a preference be given to the few teachers thrown out by this in the new schools that are to be opened. Referred to the Committee on Salaries and Economy.

The Clerk of the Board, under a resolution passed at the last meeting, reported all the Ward bills so far reported to him for 1873, amounting in the aggregate to \$3,800.63, against which, however, there are some unexpended balances. Referred to the Committee on Buildings.

He also reported, in response to another resolution, the numbers and expense of the special teachers, showing 22 teachers of music, at an aggregate salary of \$18,038; 18 teachers of drawing, at an aggregate salary of \$19,845; 9 teachers of French, at an aggregate salary of \$5,280; 5 teachers of German, at an aggregate salary of \$4,500; 2 teachers of science, at an aggregate salary of 2,424; total, \$50,167; besides an extra \$75 a year, paid to many regular teachers for music where no special teacher is employed.

Referred to the Committee on Course of Studies, and ordered to be printed in the minutes.

H. P. Bowes wants a Chart of Statistics placed on the supply list. Referred to the Committee on Course of Studies.

A number of citizens of the west side of the Twenty-fourth Ward ask a new school on the line of Riverside avenue. The signers, forty-nine in number, represent 177 children. Referred to the Committee on Sites and New Schools.

A large number of the colored citizens of the Thirteenth Ward ask a new school for colored children in that Ward. Referred to the Committee on Colored Schools.

P. Stahl asks the appointment to the proposed new Assistant Superintendency of Modern Languages. Referred to the Committee on Course of Studies.

The Children's Aid Society ask for old furniture for the night school at the Newsboys' Lodging House. Referred to the Committee on School Furniture.

A Mr. J. H. McMillen complains of a teacher in P. D. G. S. No. 47, that she has been unjust in her treatment of a child named Nellie Dunn. Referred to the Committee on Teachers.

A large number of citizens of the Twenty-fourth Ward send in a printed petition to the Board to transfer the scholars of the Fordham schools, Nos. 2 and 4, to the new school in Thomas street, over which there has been so much dispute. Referred to the Joint Committee on Finance and By-Laws, which has charge of this Fordham imbroglio.

A resolution of Mr. Klamroth, directing the Committee on Sites to number the new primary on Third street, was adopted.

Mr. Klamroth also offered the following: Resolved, That the Clerk of this Board be directed to ascertain and report at the next regular meeting—

1st. The number of pupils in each of the public schools who study the French and German languages respectively.

2d. The number of classes in each of the schools in which the French and German languages are taught respectively.

3d. The number of regular assistant teachers who are employed in teaching the German language.

The resolution was adopted.

REPORTS OF SANITARY COMMITTEES.

Mr. Halsted, from the Committee on Teachers, reported on the case of J. Frank Wright that the charges against him which had prevented his previous confirmation as Principal of G. S. No. 7 were wholly unsubstantiated, the two trustees who had offered them acknowledging that their only information was mere rumor or hearsay. They therefore recommended a resolution that he be appointed from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy therein.

A NEW RULE AS TO APPOINTMENTS.

Commissioner Dowd objected to this report on the ground that it was equivalent to giving a retroactive salary. Mr. Allison, the former principal, having died several weeks ago. In Mr. Wright's case the matter was somewhat hastily passed over by amending the report so as to make the appointment date from the passage of the resolution, in which form it was passed, but the question came up again on the next two reports more distinctly.

The Committee on Teachers also reported in favor of confirming the following Principals and Vice-Principals of the schools added in the addition of the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, designating the schools by their new numbers:

G. S. 66, G. D. Jonathan D. Hyatt.

" F. D. Caroline L. Parry.

" 61, G. D. John B. Moore.

" P. D. Mrs. M. L. Van Liew.

" 60, G. D. William B. Silber.

" F. D. Mrs. Sarah M. Reiss.

P. S. 44, Miss Kate Morris.

G. S. 63, G. D. George H. Albro.

" 64, G. D. Wm. J. Kennard.

" P. D. Selina A. Flynn.

" 65, G. D. Jas. Backhouse.

" F. D. Miss Louisa Upson.

P. S. 45, Adelaide M. Shook.

" 46, Mary A. Gilchrist.

They also recommend Miss Imogen Upson for V. P. of P. D. of G. S. No. 60, and Miss Mary Morris for V. P. of P. D. of G. S. No. 63.

Mr. Beardlee pointed out that this raised the same question as in Mr. Wright's case, and perhaps they had better settle it now. The question was whether they should pay as heretofore from the time the services were commenced, or from the time when by any accidental delay the Board acted on the nomination and made the appointment valid. He insisted that the old rule was the valid rule.

After considerable debate, the President explained that in these new wards they had received from the old Boards various teachers with their salaries to pay. So far as the then salaries were concerned, this Board would have to pay them, but in one or two instances the by-laws of this Board would increase the salaries so soon as the Principals were accepted by this Board. It was as to this increase only that the question arose. So far as the original salary was concerned, it was doubtful whether the Board's action was necessary. With regard to Mr. Wright, he had performed the duties of principal of the school during Mr. Allison's sickness and since, but he thought the Board had the right to require of inferior teachers the fulfillment temporarily of the duties of a superior whenever accident incapacitated the superior, for a reasonable time to fill the higher position without extra pay.

Mr. Brown moved as an amendment to the report and resolution, that where the salaries are increased they be increased from the date of confirmation.

Mr. Mathewson, opposed the adoption of this principal pointing out that in the evening schools, it was the custom and indeed necessary often for teachers to enter on their work before the Board could act on their confirmation.

It was here stated that Mr. Dowd's point of order related only to increase of salaries and not to entirely new appointments.

After some further debate, Mr. Brown's amendment was adopted, and the amended report adopted.

The same Committee recommend the approval of Miss Anne E. Baker, as Vice-Principal of G. S. No. 25, P. D.

Mr. West, called attention to the fact that this was exactly the case of the last two reports. Mr. Neilson, suggested that "from the commencement of service," meant a day hereafter. Mr. Patterson, asked what day, and insisted that that day be fixed.

The President suggested, that it be amended so as to read "her salary to commence from the time she shall enter upon her duties." He understood that this was a prospective employment, the young lady not yet having left the position of assistant in another school for this new position.

This did not satisfy Mr. Patterson, it permitted the young lady to take her own time in filling a position which perhaps needed filling immediately, and under it she might wait six months, a year, any time, and the position would be neither filled nor vacant.

Mr. Dowd, suggested that it was scarcely likely a lady who had been waiting for the promotion with anxiety would put off very long accepting it.

Mr. Halsted and Mr. Mathewson were both opposed to the amendment; Mr. Halsted on account of the needs of the schools and the necessity of arrangements between principals to make the transfer of a valuable assistant as little injurious as possible, and Mr. Mathewson for reasons given before that the new rule would be found generally injurious. Mr. Brown, pointed out that the Committee had acted in accordance with all precedent, but professed the willingness of the Committee to accede to whatever rule the Board should lay down.

The President's amendment and the amended report were then adopted.

The same Committee recommend that George C. Rexford's appeal be not sustained, the ground of his removal being merely economy and no fault in the appellant, who is on the contrary highly commended.

Mr. Patterson, from the Committee on Sites and New Schools, asks that the communication of the Trustees of the Twenty-third Ward, about a site for a new primary, be sent to the Committee on Buildings, and that they be discharged. Adopted.

He recommends the following numbering of the schools in the new wards:

G. S. No. 1, Mott Haven, to be G. S. 60.

" 3, Morrisania, " 61.

" 4, Melrose, " 62.

P. S. 1, Claremont, " P. S. 43.

G. S. No. 1, E. Morrisania, " G. S. 63.

" 1, Tremont, " 64.

" 1, Fordham, " 65.

" 1, West Farms, " 66.

" 1, Kingsbridge, " 67.

" 1, Moshulu, " 68.

P. S. 1, Mount Hope, " P. S. 45.

" 1, Spuyten Duyvil, " 46.

" 1, Williamsbridge, " 47.

" 1, Belmont, " 48.

The report was adopted.

The same Committee recommends the establishment of a new primary on the premises in 124th street, opposite Mount Morris square, and the reference of the matter to the Building Committee. Adopted.

Mr. Barker, from the Committee on Warming and Ventilation, reported in favor of paying John Elder's (Jr.) bill for \$73.25, for repairing heating apparatus of G. S. No. 41. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Westmore, from the Committee on

School Furniture, reported in favor of allowing the Trustees of the Twentieth Ward to advertise for new desks for two classrooms in G. D. of G. S. 32, and the Trustees of the Seventeenth Ward for furniture for the new P. S. in Third street. Adopted.

Also in favor of furnishing four new pianos: one to the P. D. of G. S. 12; one to the P. D. of G. S. 43; one to P. S. 38, and one to P. D. of G. S. 18, at an expense not exceeding \$1,400. This was at first laid over to await the supplemental report of the Finance Committee. When that was adopted, showing an appropriation of \$10,000 for pianos, the President ruled that it need not go to the Finance Committee; but, after considerable discussion, the Board, on motion, sent it to that committee.

The Normal College Committee reported in favor of paying sundry bills for philosophical and chemical apparatus, amounting to \$588.71, for which an appropriation has already been made. Adopted.

Mr. West, from the Auditing Committee, reported in favor of paying sundry bills for current expenses. One item in this was \$300 for ice, and there were sundry small charges for work on the Hall. Some objection was made to these items, but Mr. West explained that the ice bill was from September, 1872, seven months before the present Board came into office. It had been originally for \$255, but they had succeeded in cutting it down to \$200. There had been a somewhat large amount furnished, but for the present they had cut down the amount to 25 lbs. a day. As to the work on the Hall, it was for little necessary repairs ordered by the Board. The Board then ordered the bills paid.

Mr. Brown, from the Committee on Course of Study, reported, in view of the increase of work imposed on the Superintendent and his Assistants by the extension of the city territory, in favor of appointing an additional Assistant Superintendent, that Assistant to be specially selected with a view to his ability to superintend the French and German classes in the schools. This was laid over to the next meeting.

Mr. Dowd, from the Committee on Buildings, reported in favor of allowing the Trustees of the Seventeenth Ward to advertise for proposals for a new building for P. S. No. 9 on First street. Adopted.

In favor of allowing the Trustees of the Twenty-second Ward to advertise for proposals for building another story on G. S. 51. Adopted.

In favor of rehiring premises now occupied by P. D. attached to G. S. 62 in the Twenty-third Ward for not more than two years. Adopted.

In favor of hiring 222 and 224 East Twenty-fifth street for P. S. No. 33, at \$2,000, and of giving the Trustees of the Nineteenth Ward leave to advertise for proposals for fitting them up. Adopted.

In favor of hiring the premises facing Mount Morris Park, at \$1,500 per year for two years, and allowing the Trustees to advertise for proposals to fit it up. The Committee on Finance reporting the financial ability of the Board to hire the premises at this rate, the report was adopted; and in favor of allowing the Trustees of the Twelfth Ward to advertise for proposals for fitting up the premises in East Eighty-eighth street. Adopted.

Mr. Vermilye, from the Finance Committee, presented a supplementary report, restating their general appropriations in more formal way to avoid a legal question, but not changing the amounts which have been already published.

The same committee reported in favor of paying a plumbing bill of the Normal College for \$114.41 out of the reserve fund of 1873, as the department owed the Normal College Building Fund \$39,000.

Mr. Beardlee objected to the report, not liking the principle of paying out of the funds of the schools a debt which the city should pay, and thus crippling the ordinary schools. It was quite true that money belonging to the Normal College building fund had been taken for the general purposes of the schools, owing to the failure of the city to furnish funds, but that borrowing was the city's fault, and application had been made to the Board of Apportionment to replace this sum and had been refused. Under these circumstances he thought the Board should not pay out of their general fund, and moved that the report be laid on the table.

The Chairman of the Normal College Committee desiring to speak to the question, the Board, including Mr. Beardlee, defeated this motion when the Chairman first declined to speak, and then, with Mr. Vermilye, pressed the idea that this being an honest debt must be paid somehow, and then the motion to lay on the table was renewed and carried.

The same committee report that owing to the largeness of the gas bills of the last year, it was necessary to make still another appropriation for it out of the reserves of last year. The payments thus far amount to \$36,558, which includes \$1,721 for 1873, and there are additional bills amounting to \$5,047.39. The appropriations already made for that purpose were \$28,000, and now \$3,000 or more was needed.

Mr. Seligman said that this gas bill was extraordinarily extravagant, and something must be done to reduce it.

Mr. Vermilye quite agreed with him in the last remark; but here was a bill and there was no way out of it but to pay it.

Mr. West quite agreed with the two last speakers as to the extravagance of the bills; indeed, the Auditing Committee had spent weeks in inquiring into this very matter. They thought they had made some improvement. They had at least established a strict supervision over the matter, if only the Trustees would aid them, and had caused a considerable reduction already. He mentioned as specially extravagant, be-

fore their labors were commenced, school 42, where the bills had fallen from \$104 to \$38, and schools 44 and 47. The report was then adopted.

The same committee approve the bill of Faure & Sayer for \$67.27, and recommend its payment. Adopted.

They also approved the appropriation of \$100 for arrangements for lighting the Normal College, to be paid out of the "Public School Building Fund."

Mr. Vermilye asked whether this did not come under the same principle as the previous Normal College appropriation.

Mr. Dowd said it did not, as it was for work to be done, and the appropriation was out of a specific fund, which was in funds. The report was then adopted.

The same committee recommend the appropriation of \$600 for holidays in G. S. 23 and 24, and P. S. 22. Adopted.

Also the payment of Thomas Falvey's bill. Adopted.

Several teachers ask the privilege of attending a Saturday Normal School. Referred to the Committee on Normal School.

Mr. Beardlee offered the following: Resolved, That the Committee on Supplies be and they are hereby authorized to adjust payments for services in the Depository upon such basis as their judgment may approve, not to exceed in the aggregate the sum now paid for such services.

Mr. West, objected to this as a very vague and somewhat extraordinary resolution.

Mr. Beardlee explained that Mrs. Cronk, an employee in the depository for 16 years, with \$900, had had an assistant at \$300, with whom there had been some difficulties. The assistant having resigned, it was suggested and seemed advisable to give Mrs. Cronk, the whole sum of \$900, on the understanding that she employ such help as might be necessary. It was an experiment which might fail, and so they desired it left under their control to watch its effect.

Mr. Mathewson, as a member of the Committee, said there had been little difficulties in this matter, which had come to their knowledge and which could hardly be explained; but he thought the Committee might safely be trusted in this matter.

Mr. West, said he was willing to vote for a resolution if expressly stating the object avowed by Mr. Beardlee, and quite willing to trust the present high-toned Committee even though he had strong objections to any farming out of labor. But this resolution was broad and might be used by less high-toned committees of the future for purposes of favoritism. No other committee had such power.

Mr. Patterson, thought the whole trouble arose from their faulty arrangements. This whole matter should be under the control of the clerk, and he should be held to a strict responsibility.

Mr. Seligman thought that as this was an increase of salary, at least in form, it should go to the Committee on Salaries and Economy.

Mr. Dowd thought it had been already sent there under an earlier resolution.

Mr. Beardlee and Mr. Mathewson accepting such a reference, the reference to that Committee was made.

The Board then adjourned.

## THE COLLEGE REGATTA.

A POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE AMHERST REVOLT AGAINST MORRISSEY.

The Boston *Advertiser* has the following: The students of Amherst college have determined to take no part in the Saratoga regatta. The resolution is a sensible one, and it is to be hoped other colleges may come to the same conclusion.

If Harvard would do so, why might not Harvard and Amherst row a race at Lake Quinsigamond or Springfield, next summer? The performances of Amherst crews since the college has been represented at the annual regattas have been such as to give promise that they could make the race interesting.

Despite greater prestige and noise about the contests in which several colleges participate, it is questionable whether, after all, such affairs have been more satisfactory and pleasant than the old-time races between Harvard and Yale. Since Yale has consented to the arrangement of the Saratoga sporting men, by which the "inter-collegiate regatta" is to be made their decoy, we think Harvard would show an excellent discretion by declining to have anything further to do with it.

Let Harvard follow the example of Amherst and decline to go to Saratoga, as it is right and proper, that it should. Then let Harvard, Amherst and Dartmouth arrange for a regatta in New England. There is little doubt that other colleges would participate, if invited, and possibly Yale might, after all, conclude that more honor was to be gained in a contest with her old rival than in victories over Columbia and Cornell.

Harvard will consult the wishes of their best friends by bolting the nomination of Mr. Morrissey's retreat, and insisting upon preserving the prestige of the college regatta as an occasion of true college spirit.

We see that great efforts are making to create the impression that Morrissey has no interest in getting the regatta to Saratoga. It is too late. It is known that that worthy personally interested himself, last year, and he has had no lack of reminders that his prospect of success depended upon keeping his agency out of sight. He is shrewd enough to know that, so far as the patronage of his club-house is concerned, it makes no difference whose patronage brings the crowd to the springs.







## Literary Notes.

If women never changed their names, says the *Tribune*, they might have less frequent occasion to complain that others appropriate their literary work, and names also. The other day, for example, an afflicted woman out West committed suicide after having given out that she wore the name and had a right to the literary fame of a charming authoress in Philadelphia. Here is another hard case: On the programme for Miss Cushman's readings appears "Mrs. Maloney on the Chinese," by Miss Dodge, and thence it drifts into the newspapers. The enlightened reader knows that "Miss Maloney on the Chinese Question" is a bright bit of satire, written by Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, editor of *St. Nicholas* and author of numerous other good things drifting about in current literature.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Astor Library shows that the whole number of volumes is 147,640, being an increase of 2,463 over the number in January, 1873. During the past year 116,694 books were given out to readers at the tables, against 50,516 in 1860. The amount expended for books during the year was \$3,954, and the total expenditure was \$15,672.

## THE BAPTIST UNIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHWEST.

The New York *Examiner* and *Chronicle* (organ of Baptist denomination), has the following:

At the last meeting of the General Association of Middle Tennessee and North Alabama, resolutions were passed in favor of establishing a Central University for the Baptists of the Southwest. Similar resolutions were adopted by the West Tennessee Baptist Convention, at its recent meeting in Brownsville. A few days since the Board of Trustees of Union University adopted the following resolutions:

1. That we favor the unification of the Baptists of the Southwest in respect to their educational interests, by the establishment of a Central University, as proposed by the General Association of Middle Tennessee and North Alabama, and approved by the West Tennessee Baptist Convention.

2. That we invite the Trustees of Georgetown, Bethel and Mosby Creek Colleges to consider the establishment of such a University, and if it meets their approval to unite with us in the consummation of the proposed undertaking.

The undersigned have been appointed by the above-named bodies to communicate their action to the Baptist Colleges of Tennessee and Kentucky, and unfold to them the plans of union, and also to present to the brotherhood throughout the country the general outlines of the plan of union, as well as the arguments in favor of the establishment of such a University.

The object contemplated by these resolutions as a means of giving unity, energy and efficiency to the educational interests of the Baptists of the Southwestern States, is the establishment of a great Central University with an endowment of not less than half a million dollars.

In order to accomplish this, it is proposed to inaugurate the enterprise by the union of the Baptist Colleges of Tennessee and Kentucky into one University, of which these Colleges shall be subordinate departments—all united under one general organization, and all together constituting the Central Baptist University of the Southwest.

## A NEW STATE OF THINGS IN THE SOUTH.

As an argument in favor of the establishment of such a University, we submit that before the war a college could succeed, in some degree, without a large endowment. It could charge high tuition fees, and still receive a liberal patronage. Parents, being wealthy, were able to pay liberally for the education of their children. No free schools of high character were then established within our bounds. Ability in the profession of teaching could then demand and receive a just compensation from those benefited thereby. Hence a college could pay its professors adequate salaries by means of the income from tuition; but since the war these circumstances have changed. A large majority of our people are comparatively poor, and therefore unable to pay large tuition fees for the education of their sons. Now the tendency of the times is toward free tuition, not only in the lower branches of education, but in the higher departments as well.

## NOT BAD.

A Paris journal tells the story of a beggar who presented himself regularly at a certain coffee-house with a claironnet under his arm. "Will you allow me, gentlemen," said he, in a humble tone of voice, "to play a tune? I am only an amateur, and if you prefer giving me a few coppers, I will spare you the annoyance of listening to me." Every one felt at once for a few stray coppers, and the musician departed with a profound obeisance. This he repeated several evenings in succession. At last, one evening, a young man who had never failed to contribute to the wants

of the itinerant merchant, asked him in a friendly manner to give them a tune; let it be good or bad, he wanted to hear him. "But I am afraid, sir, I shall disappoint you." "Never mind that, but give us a tune." "But I am a very poor player, and I have a very poor instrument." "No matter for that, I want to hear you." "Well, sir, since you insist on it," said the poor man, "I will tell you that I don't play at all. I carry the claironnet merely for the purpose of threatening people with my performance."

## Local College and School News.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL No. 14.—The Union Square Hotel was the scene of a very pleasant gathering at dinner last Thursday evening, on the occasion of the fourth annual reunion of the Associate Alumni of Grammar School No. 14. After a banquet the "boys" had the pleasure of listening to several addresses by their old teachers and classmates. Mr. Lafayette Onley responded to the first toast, "A Good Character—its Value." Mr. H. R. Waite, very feelingly, to "Our School and our Teachers." Mr. Henry R. Tift, "Then and Now," and Mr. Louis Graisap to "Progress." The toasts were followed by impromptu addresses by Messrs. Ecclesine, Pettigrew, Wolley and Lay, and by an original song by the boys' old German tutor, Er. Selsberg.

## THE 20TH WARD MALE EVENING SCHOOL.

—We were not surprised on visiting this great school—one of the largest in the country—to find the classes well organized, the order excellent, and the interest among the pupils unabated, in spite of the lateness of the season and the allurement incident to winter sports. Mr. Olney and his fine corps of assistants have accomplished much, perhaps more in certain directions than any other institution of the kind in the city. The success attending the efforts of Mr. Elmer Poulson in the department of phonography, is, without doubt, unequalled, while we may speak quite as positively of the labors of Mr. Charles E. Cady in the department of book-keeping, and Mr. Wm. Heilmüller in that of drawing. The school throughout is doing fine work, and we congratulate the Board of Education and the Trustees of the 20th Ward on the happy results to be seen in Evening School No. 32.

## NEW YORK UNIVERSITY.—During the

last week two events of interest have occurred to vary the routine of study; the celebration of the day of prayer for colleges, and the joint-meeting of the literary societies. The first, which took place on Thursday, Jan. 29, was observed, as is the custom of the Institution, with marked attention. After roll call proceedings were inaugurated by Messrs. Darlington, Chambers, Bull and Crane, who rendered Flotow's arrangement of "Guide me! O Thou Great Jehovah," in a manner highly complimentary to their vocal organs. Chancellor Crosby, after having read a chapter of the Bible, remarked that as it was customary for an alumnus to deliver the sermon on that day, he took pleasure in introducing the Rev. A. R. Macourby, '56, of Brewster Station, Putnam county, N. Y. Dr. Macourby chose as his text the last eleven verses of Genesis. His eloquent remarks were listened to with the strictest attention, and the hour and the half which they occupied will be remembered as an epoch in the lives of many of those present. The sermon of Dr. Macourby was followed by a prayer from the Chancellor, after which the choir and glee club sang, "Nearer my God to thee," and thus the prayer day for colleges of the year 1874, was given to the past by the University of the city of New York. The second event, the joint meeting of the debating societies, was held on Friday evening, Jan. 30. The small chapel in which this took place contained quite a large audience, considering that this was the first meeting of the kind which has ever taken place in the history of the societies. A number of the members of the literary societies of Columbia and New York College were present. The question "That the United States should grant belligerent rights to Cuba" was debated with more than ordinary earnestness. The Philomathean, represented by Messrs. Pike, Tomlinson, Smith and Lindley, sustained the affirmative; and the Euclidean, represented by Messrs. Bull, A. S. Thompson, A. R. Thompson and Lawson, sustained the negative. To the Euclidean, and consequently to the negative, was awarded, by Prof. Martin, who acted as judge, the honor of having adduced the most solid arguments. Mr. A. S. Thompson was especially mentioned as deserving of praise for his logical method of statement. Mr. A. R. Thompson and Mr. Lawson for general merit. The literary appointments for Feb. 6 are: Euclidean—Essay, Mr. Lawson, '75; Selected Oration, Mr. Spielman, '75; Poem, Mr. Wiener, '75. Debate—"That students of every institution should support their athletic organizations." Affirmative—Mr. Rusak, '75; Mr. Powers, '77; Mr. A. S. Thompson, '74. Negative—Mr. Englis, '77; Mr. Jones, '77; Mr. W. R. Thompson, '76. Philomathean: Declaration, Mr. Myers, '77; Essay, Mr. Martin, '75; Poem, Mr. Fiske, '76; Prose Selection, Mr. Gage, '77. Debate—"Should jurors be paid." Affirmative—Mr. Crosby, '76; Mr. Gillett, '74; Mr. Chambers, '75. Negative—Mr. Smith, '74; Mr. Freeman, '76; Mr. Jervis, '76.

## PROFESSOR TYNDALL LECTURING TO CHILDREN.

A peculiar entertainment for children was provided in London during the Christmas holidays, being a course of scientific lectures. The *Daily News* prefaces its report of the first lecture, "On the Propagation of Sound," with this pleasant introduction:

"There is a well-known case upon record of a waiter who, having a rare holiday conceded to him, devoted it to the rendering of voluntary assistance to a brother waiter oppressed with the burden of a dinner party. There are also even better-authenticated instances of hard-worked actors who, having an off-night, have spent it 'in the front,' watching the stage from the task of treading which they were temporarily relieved. These things, having been, seem natural enough; but at first sight it appears nothing less than a piece of unrefined cruelty deliberately to project a series of scientific lectures for the edification of boys and girls home for the Christmas holidays. Such an undertaking has, nevertheless, been planned by the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and is now being carried out under the direction of Professor Tyndall. The course of lectures is 'On the Motion and Sensation of Sound,' and the first was delivered on Saturday afternoon, in the lecture hall of the institution, in Albemarle street. It may be as well, at the outset, to state distinctly that there was not anywhere traceable, on the faces of the children present, anything approaching a conviction of unfair dealing on the part of the parents or guardians who had taken them to hear a lecture 'On the Propagation of Sound' upon the afternoon following boxing night. On the contrary, the beaming faces that circled the stage, at Covent Garden or Drury Lane, on Friday night, did not outshine in cheerful appreciation of the performance those which surrounded Professor Tyndall in the lecture hall of the Royal Institution on Saturday afternoon. There was, in truth, some reason for this gratification on the part of the children, for not only was the lecture prepared specially for them, but they were throughout its delivery unmistakably regarded as the principal personages present. A considerable number of elder sisters accompanied them—young ladies who would, like Aurora Leigh,

'Brush with extreme docility the circle of the sciences.'

Papas and mammas were likewise there in no small number; but these were all relegated to back seats, the place of honor in the front rank, almost within reach of the magic wands with which the professor played, being reserved for 'children only.'

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

MISFIT CARPETS.—We would call the attention of our readers to Mr. Bendall's card in the present number of our journal, and from our personal knowledge of the gentleman and his fair and honorable dealing, we do not hesitate to recommend our friends and patrons who desire a really good carpet at very much less than the regular prices to give him a call. Not only can the very best goods in the market be found at his place, but purchasers can have them sent lower and laid free of charge, a no slight desideratum to those who know anything about the trouble of laying and fitting carpets. Mr. Bendall's place is at 112 Fulton street (bet. William and Nassau streets), down stairs.

—Do not use liniments to cure rheumatism, and thereby produce organic diseases of the heart, when a dose or two of Freiligh's Remedy, sold by all druggists, will effectually eradicate the cause from the system.

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## THE CITY SCHOOLS—SUPERINTENDENT KIDDLE'S REPORT.

The annual report of Henry Kiddle, Superintendent of Schools in this city, states that the average attendance of pupils for the year ending on Sept. 30, when returns were made from all the schools under the control of the Board of Education, was 107,630; and the whole number of pupils who received instruction during any portion of the year is reported as 235,618. The average attendance and number of pupils taught in each class of schools during this and the preceding year are exhibited in the following table:

	1878.		1877.	
<i>Schools.</i>	Average Attendance.	Whole No. Taught.	Average Attendance.	Whole No. Taught.
Male G. Schools.	17,051	38,483	16,939	31,371
Female G. Schools.	18,411	39,941	18,928	38,362
Primary Dep'ts.	68,965	92,277	68,563	89,977
Primary Schools.	15,563	32,148	15,350	30,176
Colored Schools.	808	1,993	797	1,238
Normal Schools.	1,395	2,494	1,448	2,145
Corporate Schools.	8,952	21,506	8,257	23,418
Evening Schools.	1,105	10,550	9,350	39,978
Total.....	107,630	235,618	106,236	233,890

It will be perceived from this that the average attendance in all the schools for the year was 1,313 in excess of that reported in 1877, while the number taught was 232 less. The accommodations, except in the primary departments, have been increased to a much greater proportion than the number of pupils to be accommodated. The reasons for this are, the increase of school population in some parts of the city and the diminution in others; the withdrawing of the pupils from the public schools by the establishment of parochial schools; and the establishment of schools and the erection of buildings in localities where they are needed without the discontinuance of schools where they are not needed. In this way the cost of the system is year by year increasing in a greater ratio than the number of pupils educated. This table shows the number of pupils that can be accommodated in each class of schools, as compared with the average number on register:

	Number that can be accommodated.	Average Register.	Excess of Accommodation.	Excess of Accommodation in 1877.
Male G. Schools.	22,529	18,594	3,934	3,553
Female G. Schools.	30,411	17,978	3,363	3,100
Primary Dep'ts.	45,631	48,594	40	1,500
Primary Schools.	15,563	15,350	213	2,093
Colored Schools.	1,057	1,040	17	893
Total.	114,112	106,254	18,508	11,641

The largest percentage of public school attendance, as compared with the population, is in the Tenth Ward, where it is 15 per cent., while in the smallest, the Eighth Ward, where it is only a little over 6 per cent., the average for the whole city being about 9½ per cent.

## OVERCROWDING IN THE SCHOOLS.

Probably the most serious evil connected with the school system is the overcrowding of the schools. To this fact the attention of the Board has been frequently called, and measures have been adopted from time to time to abate the evil; it, however, still exists to an alarming extent, and calls for the earnest consideration of the Board. As, by law, resident parents and guardians are permitted to send their children to schools in any part of the city, some schools, deemed more efficient, or consisting mainly of pupils who belong to more affluent families, are overcrowded, while other schools, often in the same ward, are left with a large number of vacant seats or class-rooms. Principals often find it exceedingly difficult, sometimes almost impossible, to resist the importunities of parents who desire that their children should be admitted, even when they are told that the school is already crowded. The consequence of this is that many of the rooms, especially in the primary departments, are filled almost to the suffocation of both pupils and teachers.

Some more definite rule is required to regulate this matter effectually. Mr. Kiddle suggests that the Board fix the capacity of every building, every main room, and every class-room in the city, and prohibit the placing, at any time, of more children in any room than the number thus established by law, and that every principal be required to refuse admission to all pupils when the number assigned for his or her department or school has been reached. If this were carefully and accurately accomplished, keeping in view not merely the number of seats that could be placed in a room, but allowing a sufficient number of cubic feet of air for each child, the accommodations would be greatly reduced. The accommodations are very insufficient in the primary departments of Nos. 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 35, 36, 37 and 34. In these schools the number of pupils that can be properly accommodated is 10,905, while the average attendance is 11,599.

## THE EXAMINATIONS.

During the year the schools have all been minutely examined, at least once, and many of them twice. Of 1,858 classes thus examined, the instruction in 905 was found to have been excellent; in 781, good; in 158, fair; in 13, indifferent; and in 1, bad. The general results of the examinations, even when a careful compilation of the returns of nearly 2,000 classes, shows a slight improvement in reading and spelling, but in other respects an inferiority to the results reported in 1877. This table will exemplify this fact:

Year.	Discipline Per cent.	Reading Per cent.	Spelling Per cent.	Writing Per cent.	Arithmetic Per cent.
1870.	81 1/2	76	83	78 1/2	78 1/2
1871.	89	79 1/2	79 1/2	83 1/2	79 1/2
1872.	12	81 1/2	80 1/2	84 1/2	81 1/2
1873.	90 1/2	82	85 1/2	88	79

## DIFFICULTIES OF DISCIPLINE.

There has been a considerable falling off in respect to discipline in the male grammar schools. While last year the number of classes reported deficient in this respect was only three per cent. of the whole examined, this year it is nine per cent. Still, as a general thing, excellent order is maintained

in the schools, though evidently only by means of a great expenditure of time and labor on the part of both principals and class teachers. The whole number of pupils reported as suspended from the schools for various kinds of misconduct, during the past year, is 78—from male grammar schools, 47, and from primary departments and schools, 32. The latter includes one girl suspended from one of the primary departments. The following are the reported causes of these suspensions: Twenty-two for disobedience, 40 for disorderly conduct, 8 for truancy, 3 for stealing, 4 for indecent conduct, and 2 for striking their teacher. Thirteen of these suspended pupils have been readmitted on certificates granted by the undersigned.

In my last annual report, I stated that the by-laws in regard to suspension had not been found adequate to prevent the frequent occurrence of the most heinous offenses in the schools on the part of vicious boys—such as insulting and outrageous language to teachers, violent and injurious assaults upon their fellow-pupils, the wanton destruction of school property, and gross disobedience and constant disregard of the rules of the school. The careful and thorough investigation of this matter by a Committee of the Board having resulted not simply in fully proving the accuracy of this statement, but in showing that the evil is of far greater magnitude than was represented in the report, there is no need of any further statement of facts by me. The state of the case must be apparent to all—there is a large class of boys whom our schools do not and cannot restrain, and whom, therefore, they cannot benefit, but must send aside, to find their way into the reformatories and prisons, after having committed these injuries to the community which our school system was designed to prevent.

In my last annual report I recommended that, as "moral suasion" had failed to restrain a large class of the pupils, the right to inflict corporal punishment should be restored to the principals. In the opinion upon which this recommendation was based, I have been greatly strengthened by the conclusion at which the Investigating Committee, before referred to, arrived, and which prompted them to report unanimously in favor of such restoration, as well as by the fact that, after a full discussion in open Board, so large a number of its members were also in favor of the restoration. As, however, the report of the Committee has not been adopted, the question what shall be done with persistently disobedient and disorderly pupils is still an open question.

## COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

No changes having been made in the course of instruction during the year, or in any of the regulations pertaining to it, it would be well to adopt the plan briefly sketched in my last annual report, and prescribing a perfectly uniform course for all schools up to a certain grade of attainment, from which a divergence should occur, so that different schools might teach as specialties different departments of study, each adapted to some special purpose. Every year parents are compelled to report the progress of their sons from the higher grades of grammar schools, and send them, at great expense, to schools in which, by careful instruction in a few important branches, they may be prepared for business. This would not be the case if certain of the schools were made in their higher grades commercial schools, in which the pupils would be insured the best possible training and instruction in everything required for business pursuits, and the same is true in regard to other occupations. At the present time a preparation for the colleges in all that is attended to, while hundreds never design to enter either of those institutions.

The improvements made in German instruction during the year has not been satisfactory. The cause of this is the failure to comply entirely with the provisions of the by-laws in relation to this matter. The old system of employing special teachers to attend two or three hours each week, and give a few scattered lessons to the first and second classes of the school, has been continued, and still exists, in at least 16 of the grammar schools; notwithstanding the fact that, when the new system was established, it was especially provided that the service of all special teachers should be employed under this by-law (the new system) shall be dispensed with. Had this been carried out, the German instruction in our schools would have presented, at this time, a very different degree of progress than it now exhibits. Moreover, there are few schools in which the German system of teaching German is fully carried out in other respects. The course of instruction has not been carefully followed; promotions have been made without regard to the proficiency made in this branch; and in some cases too little time has been given to it, to enable the teachers to accomplish the desired object. There are at present only 20 schools in which the attempt has been made to introduce this branch as a part of the regular course of study; in all the others there is either no instruction in German at all, or none that is of any real value.

The teaching of the French language is confined to the two higher grades of the grammar school, and the time devoted to it varies from one to three hours a week. In some of the female grammar schools the pupils are required to pursue both the German and French languages, and, of course, no satisfactory progress is made in either. The examinations have resulted in showing that any considerable proficiency has been made in French, and I believe that it would be better to make the study of one foreign language obligatory in all the schools, regulate carefully the amount of time that should be given to it, and leave the study of others for the New York College or the Normal College exclusively. Many good reasons may be assigned for selecting the German language in preference to all others for instruction in our common schools; and, in order to make that instruction thoroughly efficient and beneficial, and to avoid the requirement of excessive study from the pupils, the study of French in our schools, perhaps with very few exceptions, should be wholly abandoned.

Much disparity exists both in the system pursued and the progress made in musical instruction in the grammar and primary schools. The teaching of music has been going on for some years merely optional, it had become the fixed practice in most of the schools, previous to the issuing of the

Teachers' Manual by the Board, to confine the musical exercises to rote singing. The positive requirement in the Manual of a certain amount of attainment in musical reading has had the effect to stimulate the special teachers as well as the principals to efforts to accomplish what has been prescribed; and the result has been to effect a very considerable reform in this department of instruction.

There are at present employed in the several schools 2,569 teachers, of whom 374 are males and 2,496 females. The whole number of days lost by the absence of teachers during the past year is 16,653; last year it was 18,300. There has thus been an improvement in this respect of 1,647 days.

## THE EVENING SCHOOLS.

The examinations held in the evening schools show that, of 247 classes examined, the instruction in 110 was excellent, in 109 good, in 24 fair, in 1 indifferent and in 3 bad. At the examination of 1871-2 in these schools, of 213 classes examined 68 were found to be excellent, 120 good, 21 fair and 4 indifferent. The whole number of pupils enrolled during any part of the term was 12,155 males and 5,574 females; the average attendance for the term was 4,970 males and 3,458 females, while the largest average attendance for any single week was 7,846 males and 3,947 females. This is exclusive of the Evening High School and the colored schools. The average attendance in the latter was 130; the whole number enrolled, 421; and the largest weekly average, 197.

The schools now in session were opened in October last, and have thus far been well attended. As much more care was taken this year than last in the appointment of the teachers, it is reasonable to expect that the examinations which will be held in the ensuing year will be attended by better results than those of the previous year.

## MUSCULAR STUDENTS.

That was a sad mistake (says the *Hartford Courant*) which occurred at Alyn Hall. A few of our home-bred bunnies thought it would be a good joke to pick a mus with a student. Not keeping a faithful run of the newspapers, they did not consider that the occasion which had brought numerous college representatives here was not to organize a convention of pulmonary complaints, with a first-class consumptive patient for chairman. If they had taken in the whole object of the gathering, and reasoned intelligently as to the class of students assembled, they would possibly have hesitated before beginning the attack. But ignorance was bliss, and they were held. It was a little fellow who was selected as a good pupil to start on, and a muscular loafer was put forward for scientific work. And here is where the fun comes in. When the bummer got his mouth all ready to swallow the object of his regard, the said object threw out his right hand gently and closed the eye of the aforesaid. It was a cruel disappointment. And as the eye closed, all the rest of the fellow's physical reliance went back on him, and he brought up on the floor, seeing stars not down in the programme of "The Knights of the Silver Star," whose ball it was. Then the associate bunnies wanted the university man to go outside and they would get even with him. He was accommodating, and went out into the street and knocked down two of them, and then, just getting his hand in, asked for two more. He couldn't bear the thought of leaving Hartford with having punished only three men. But there were no more mourners, and the scene closed. The lesson of it all to the laughing, fighting crowd is, that the only road to success is in a nice discrimination always. The student who sits up till after midnight every night, studying by the light of a tallow dip, and so exhausts himself that a boiled custard will grow tired in his presence, is always a safe fellow to hit; but those other students who don't sit up nights, and who eat meat three times a day, and who get out on the placid waters of some congenial stream to wrestle with a bow oar, are not the kind that it is always pleasant to run against.

A PRIZE OFFER TO SCHOOL CHILDREN.—All teachers will oblige us by calling the attention of their pupils to the following: Mr. Wm. Miles, President of the Sixpenny Savings Bank of this city, authorizes us to offer a prize of one dollar, to be given to each of five female pupils, whether in this city or out of town schools, who will render a proper solution, expressed in the best language, and showing the best penmanship, of the following questions:

What will \$1 per day put out at 7 per cent. with compound interest for the space of fifty years—that is, \$1 per day each day in the fifty years, allowing 300 days for each year—amount to? and what part of that would one cent per day amount to? What would they amount to at 6 per cent. and what at 5 per cent.?

If a married man can support a family of five persons on \$3 per day; how much should a single man save who has none but himself to support?

The last question is capable of argument as many contingencies are contained in it. It would be well to qualify the answers by written arguments. The offer will be held open for one month, and consequently competitors are requested to send in their answers by the 28th of February.

The discussion in regard to the restoration of corporal punishment in the N. Y. City Schools, is raising Cain among the boys.



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